

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

United States Naval Academy
121 Blake Road
Annapolis MD 21402-5000

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Winter-Spring 2005

The U.S. Naval Academy



FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

Our regular patrons know that, although the enlisted members of the Naval Academy Band are permanently assigned, the officers we see are not. Thus, we say "farewell and best wishes" to both Commander Donald H. Keller, Jr. and Lieutenant Junior Grade Jeff Wrenn as they transfer to their next assignments and we say "fair winds and following seas" to our ship-mate Musician First Class Jody Stiles as he retires with 20 years of service.

Commander Donald H. Keller, Jr., a native of Stockton, California, enlisted in the Navy in 1975. Since his commissioning, he has led Navy Band San Francisco, SEVENTH Fleet Band, SIXTH Fleet Band, and ATLANTIC Fleet Band, and was the Training Officer at the Armed Forces School of Music. In August of 2001 he became the 25th Leader of "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band," and was promoted to Commander in January, 2004.

CDR Keller's exemplary leadership ensured sterling musical support for the Naval Academy, Navy Recruiting, and the surrounding community. His personal drive, combined with his desire to further the band's involvement in Midshipmen activities, influenced the professional development of all band personnel. His guidance was invaluable to the success of implementing the Naval Academy Superintendent's objective of Midshipmen singing on the parade field to bolster spirit and morale. He also organized musical support for Midshipmen sing-alongs that quickly became a mainstay in the lives of future Naval officers, including the first ever Brigade Holiday Sing-along, a highly successful event for over 2,000 Midshipmen, faculty, and staff. He was instrumental in the production of the new "United States Naval Academy Song Book," which is now used by the entire Brigade of Midshipmen.

CDR Keller provided executive vision to set the course for a triumphant year-long celebration of the band's 150th anniversary. 12 highly acclaimed public events were featured as part of the 150th celebration, including gala performances complete with multi-media displays which showcased the band's rich heritage and commitment to the Naval Academy. Especially notable were a performance directed by world-renowned conductor Leonard Slatkin and the first Contemporary Music Ensemble reunion concert, both rousing successes with audiences. His team acquired historical documentation resulting in a permanent display at the Naval Academy Museum that paid tribute to band members and their families past and present. The international search for new music by established composers to specifically honor the band's anniversary resulted in five original concert band compositions. CDR Keller was instrumental in procuring the hardware and software necessary to outfit the band's digital recording studio. CDR Keller's next assignment is Commanding Officer, Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, VA.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Robert "Jeff" Wrenn joined us in November of 2002 as a newly commissioned officer, having served 14 years as a saxophonist, clarinetist, guitarist and vocalist in Fleet Bands in Italy, New Orleans, Japan and Norfolk, Virginia. His reputation as an outstanding leader resulted in his selection as a Bandmaster in the Navy Music Program.

Since his arrival in Annapolis, LTJG Wrenn has had the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. His experience as a concert band conductor developed by leaps and bounds as his

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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

On March 5, 2005, I will depart the Naval Academy Band and family to assume the duties of Commanding Officer of the Navy School of Music in Norfolk, VA. I want to take this opportunity to thank the "best audience a band could ever have" for your continued support of this incredibly talented group of musicians. The past three and a half years has gone by way too fast and I've enjoyed every minute I've been privileged to have with this group. I look forward to joining the ranks of the Alumni and the audience as a continued supporter and fan.

The Naval Academy chain of command, from the Superintendent to the Brigade of Midshipmen, has been equally terrific and supportive. Nothing pleases the band more than seeing the uniforms in the audience. Working with the Academy Band Alumni Association on the band's 150th celebration will always remain as a highlight of the tour. Although we've accomplished many things in our short time together, nothing will mean more to me than the time we have spent preparing and performing the concerts for you.

We will be saying goodbye to LTJG Jeff Wrenn as he departs Annapolis in January to be the new Director of Navy Band New Orleans. His relief, ENS Diane Nichols is scheduled to report to the band in May. Your new Leader is Lieutenant Commander Mel Kessler, USN. He comes to the band from Norfolk, VA, where he served as the Director of the Atlantic Fleet Band. His first concert with the band will be on January 28, 2005 in the Academy Chapel.

On behalf of the members of the Naval Academy Band I thank you for your continued support. Please come out and meet the new Leader and hear your United States Naval Academy Band this winter.

Sincerely,

D. H. Keller, Jr.

Director

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Musician First Class Matthew Shea is a native of Ellington, Connecticut and began trumpet studies at age 9. He attended college at the University of North Texas where he earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Jazz Studies. While at North Texas, Petty Officer Shea rose to the jazz trumpet position in the esteemed One O'clock Lab Band, directed and taught jazz improvisation for the Nine O'clock Lab Band, and appeared on 2 recordings: *Lab '98* and *Lab '99*. He also played jazz trumpet on the Dallas Jazz Orchestra recording *Scrapbook*. He's made studio recordings for radio and TV commercials and toured the U.S. and Europe with various rock and jazz bands. After graduating from UNT in 2001, he worked as a musician for Carnival Cruise Lines and soon became Musical Director. Through his position at Carnival Cruise Lines Petty Officer Shea visited over 50 countries. Petty Officer Shea joined the Naval Academy Band in 2004 as a trumpet instrumentalist in concert, jazz, ceremonial, and marching bands. Other interests include sports and history.



The United States Naval Academy Band

DIRECTOR

CDR Donald H. Keller, Jr.
ASST. DIRECTOR
LTJG Robert J. Wrenn

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

MUCM James E. Rodak

OPERATIONS

MUCS Dan Drew

ADMINISTRATION

MUC Ronda Oy-Letic

SUPPLY

MUC Karl Schultz

LIBRARIAN

MUC Jarrod Williams

AUDITION SUPERVISOR

MUC Ken Plabe

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MUCS Rob Wernitz

CONCERT INFORMATION:

(410) 293-0263

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to LTJG R. J. Wrenn on his recent promotion and his assignment as Director, Navy Band New Orleans. Naval Academy Band recently had a chance to recognize some of our outstanding Petty Officers:



MU1 Pasquale Sarracco
Sailor of the Quarter for the
period July - September 2004



MU1 Cathy Stiles
Sailor of the Quarter for the
period October - December 2004



MU1 Amy Jarjoura
Sailor of the Year 2004

FRIENDS OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY (FONA) APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Friends of the Naval Academy program provides appropriate access to people outside the normal Department of Defense scope that support the USNA mission, its people, and its reputation. The FONA pass allows patrons affiliated with the Naval Academy to have vehicular access. Patrons that already have a DoD vehicle decal or handicapped tags/pass do not need to apply for a FONA pass. FONA passes take time to process and will be forwarded when available. Due to limited parking onboard, you should strongly consider the shuttle bus service. There are a limited number of FONA passes available to Naval Academy Band patrons on a first come, first-served basis.

To apply for a FONA pass, e-mail Senior Chief Rob Wernitz Wernitz@usna.edu or write to:
United States Naval Academy Band
U. S. Naval Academy
101 Buchanan Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5080

If you or a friend would like to receive "Serenade", the Naval Academy Band newsletter, please fill out the enclosed coupon and mail it to us. We will be happy to include you on our patron list. **BONUS!** Patrons with email will receive press releases for each concert.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

email: _____

Mail to:

U.S. Naval Academy Band
101 Buchanan Rd
Annapolis MD 21402-5080

ALUMNI CORNER

Please mark your calendars! July 19, 2005 will be our next Alumni Concert. We hope you can join us.

(Fair Winds and Following Seas continued from page 1)

time in front of the "Navy's Oldest and Finest Band" increased. He also took advantage of his proximity to one of the foremost conducting teachers in the country, studying conducting regularly with Maestro Anthony Maiello of George Mason University, so he could get the very best out of the music for each concert. In addition to his experiences with Mr. Maiello, he found time to complete a second bachelor's degree.

By the time you receive this issue of *Serenade*, LTJG Wrenn will be Director, Navy Band New Orleans. Having previously been stationed there, he looks forward to the opportunity to lead the band and continue his personal growth by pursuing a master's degree in business administration. His position in the Naval Academy Band will remain unoccupied awaiting his replacement, Ensign Diane Nichols, to report in May 2005.

We've all enjoyed serving with and watching this fine young officer grow in the 2+ years that he has been here. With any luck he will return someday as the Leader of the Naval Academy Band. Until that day, we wish him the very best in his career as a talented leader in the Navy Music Program.

Petty Officer Joseph "Jody" Stiles was born in Washington D.C., and graduated from high school in New Market, Alabama. He continued his music studies at East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, from 1983-1985. During that time he marched with "The Spirit of Atlanta" Drum and Bugle Corps, touring extensively throughout the United States.

In April of 1985 he joined the Navy and completed Recruit Training and the Basic Course at the Armed Forces School of Music. His assignments included tours with Navy Band San Francisco, the Intermediate Course at the School of Music, Navy Band San Diego, and Navy Band New Orleans.

Petty Officer Stiles joined Naval Academy Band's "Electric Brigade" in August 1995. He soon became a mainstay performer as the band supported Midshipmen dances and increased public awareness of the Navy while touring throughout four Naval Recruiting Districts. He helped usher Electric Brigade into the computer age by using and tutoring others in music notation software. He also served as Arranger, Operations, and Leading Petty Officer for Electric Brigade. Most significantly, he created and led a New Orleans style brass band that entertained fans at Navy Football games, personally arranging and rehearsing all the music for the group. Petty Officer Stiles enjoys racquetball and boating in his spare time.

Replacements for CDR Keller and LTJG Wrenn are already in the wings and auditions for MU1 Stiles' position are ongoing. Even though new people will eventually fill their shoes and the show will always go on, the people themselves are one of a kind and are therefore irreplaceable. We bid them each a fond farewell.

(Spotlight On The Tuba Section continued from page 3)

biking, golfing, and barbecuing. When asked about new goals and recent achievements, he replied, "I recently returned to my home state and alma mater to perform a masterclass and recital as part of their visiting artist series. It was a rewarding musical opportunity for me to perform in front of a critical audience of music students. In addition, it gave me a chance to promote the Navy Music Program and share the talents of the USNA Band members with citizens outside boundaries of Annapolis. Future short-range goals include the US Army Band Tuba/Euphonium Conference (Jan. '05) and the USMA Regional Tuba Conference (March '05). In addition to staying in shape musically I also kept up my physical fitness by training for and completing the Army ten mile race in Washington D.C. It was a chilly and wet day but the rain lifted just long enough to run the race. The race is the largest ten mile race in the country with over 16,000 runners competing this year."

One thing remains clear: No matter what the endeavor, you can bet that these three are constantly striving for excellence.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE TUBA SECTION

The tuba section, staffed by Chief Musician Jarrod Williams and Musicians First Class Todd Nix and Travis Siehndel, has been together for 3 and a half years. Even though they come from different backgrounds there are many things that they share in common, such as their high commitment to music, education, and physical fitness.

Chief Musician Jarrod D. Williams earned his bachelor of music degree in 1995 from the University of Kansas and his master of music degree in tuba performance from K.U. in 2002, graduating with distinction. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in tuba performance at the University of Maryland. He has performed with the Springfield (MO) and Lawrence (KS) Symphony Orchestras; served as chairman of the 1998 International Tuba and Euphonium Conference Military Band Competition; and is currently Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium at Salisbury University.

Chief Williams is the senior member of the Naval Academy Band tuba section, joining in April of 1996. He was named principal tubist in 1998. In addition to tuba performance, he is Chief in Charge of the band's music library. He also served as Leading Petty Officer of the Concert Band prior to his recent promotion. "This is such a great job here at the Naval Academy," said Williams. "I plan to stay a full career but it's never too early to plan ahead. My goal after my Navy career is to be a college tuba professor in a tenure track position. Playing ability and professional reputation are definitely a factor in competing for those jobs, but a doctorate is practically required." During off duty hours, Chief Williams enjoys spending time with his family and some sports related activities like heading up the band's softball team, lifting weights, baseball history and statistics, and Kansas Jayhawk basketball.

Musician First Class Todd C. Nix received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon, where he also performed frequently with the Eugene (OR) Symphony Orchestra and Eugene Opera Company. Petty Officer Nix was a graduate assistant to Professor Daniel Perantoni at Indiana University. He joined the Naval Academy Band in 1997. In addition to tuba performance, Petty Officer Nix serves as Assistant Drum Major and Petty Officer in Charge of Transportation. He also provides strong enlisted leadership to future Naval officers by his involvement with the Naval Academy's lightweight crew team.

Aside from his duties here at Naval Academy Band, he is presently Associate Professor of Tuba at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and is an active clinician.

When asked about specific goals, he said, "A year and a half ago I set sights on one of those goals that a person has on the checklist of 'things to do' in their lifetime. Many miles and many hours of training later, I completed the Marine Corps Marathon on October 31, 2004. It is considered one of the top 5 first marathons in America. The course takes you through the best parts of Washington, DC and in true Marine Corps fashion, the last 2 miles (or 385 yards) is straight uphill, not an easy task to complete after 26 miles." What impressed him the most were the spectators. "Thousands of people lined the streets of DC to cheer the runners on around every turn. These words of encouragement helped 22,000 runners finish that day. My goal was to qualify for the Boston Marathon, but the weather did not cooperate. The hot and humid conditions yielded the slowest times in the history of the event." Petty Officer Nix ended with a time of 3:28:47 and finished 422 out of 22,000!

Musician First Class Travis Siehndel earned a bachelor of music degree in tuba performance from the University of Kansas in 1999 and went on to earn a master of music degree in 2001 from the University of Michigan. Petty Officer Siehndel has performed as principal tubist with the Topeka (KS) Symphony, Warren (MI) Symphony, and American Wind Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with the Ann Arbor (MI) Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet, Topeka Symphony Brass Quintet, Oread Brass Quintet, and Kansas Brass Quintet. Petty Officer Siehndel joined the section in 2001. He performs with the concert, ceremonial, and marching bands, and in his spare time enjoys mountain

United States Naval Academy Band

Winter-Spring Concert Series 2005

January 23

RECITAL SERIES

Featuring MUI Devona Williams and MUI Lynda Dembowski
3:30 P.M. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
461 College Parkway, Arnold.

March 4

BRASS ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WINDS

Featuring Maestro Gene Young and organist Monte Maxwell
8:00 P.M. at USNA Main Chapel.

January 28

MUSIC FOR A CATHEDRAL.

8:00 P.M. at USNA Main Chapel.

March 11

MEET THE COMPOSER CONCERT

Featuring Mr. James Barnes
8:00 P.M. at Mahan Hall.

February 4

RECITAL SERIES

Featuring MUI Joel Borrelli
8:00 P.M. at First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
Duke of Gloucester at Conduit Street, Annapolis.

March 18

SPECIAL GUEST

Maestro Eugene Migliaro Corporon
8:00 P.M. at Mahan Hall.

March 31

"NEXT WAVE" JAZZ ENSEMBLE

7:30 P.M. Gordon Center for Performing Arts
3506 Gwynbrook Avenue, Owings Mills.

February 12

MASTERWORKS

7:00 P.M. at Willow Valley Retirement Communities Cultural Center
900 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Willow Street, PA 17584 9663.

April 3

RECITAL SERIES

Featuring MUI Brenda Waters
3:30 P.M. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
461 College Parkway, Arnold.

February 13

RECITAL SERIES

Featuring MUCM James Rodak and MUI Devona Williams
3:30 P.M. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
461 College Parkway, Arnold.

April 15

SIDE BY SIDE

Featuring area high school students
8 P.M. at Annapolis High School
2700 Riva Road, Annapolis.

February 27

RECITAL SERIES

Featuring MUC Marcia Diehl, MUI Dawn Henry and Dr. Charles Hulin
3:30 P.M. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
461 College Parkway, Arnold.

April 24

RECITAL SERIES

Featuring MUC Marcia Diehl
3:30 P.M. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
461 College Parkway, Arnold.

All United States Naval Academy Band concerts are free and open to the public. For a listing of upcoming performances, please call the Naval Academy Band Concert Information Line at (410)293-0263 or visit us on the World Wide Web at www.usna.edu/USNABand.